projects have already been included in the budget to provide connectivity to State Capitals in the N.E. Region:

(i) Harmuti-ltanagar

(ii) Diphu-Karong as first phase of BG line to Imphal

(ii) Kumarghat-Agartala.

The work on Kumarghat-Agartala is in progress. The surveys for alternative alignment for Harmuti-ltangar from Bediti to Itanagar and Dihpu-Karong from Jiribam to Imphal have been taken up on the requests of State Governments. The survey from Jiribam to Imphal has been completed and proposal has been processed further.The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

(b) to (c) Survey for new line from Agartala to Sabroon was completed in May, 2000. As per the survey, the cost of construction of this 110 km. line has been assessed as Rs. 370 crore. In view of the heavy throw forward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources, it is not considered feasible to take up the project.

Introduction of Kaifi Azmi Express

672. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to introduce a direct train from Mumbai to Azamgarh *via* Bandra, Vapi, Surat, Bhusawal and Varanasi by the name of 'Kaifi Azmi Express' in the fond memory of the renowned poet Kaifi Azmi; and

(b) if so, the action taken, so far, to introduce the above train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, frequency of 5025/5026 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Godan Express via Azamgarh has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly from July 2003 Time Table.